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BIRNBAUM, KARL. Die Psychopathischen Verbrecher. Die Grenzzustände zwischen geistiger Gesundheit und Krankheit in ihren Beziehungen zu Verbrechen und Strafwesen. Pp. 1-568. Berlin, 1914. K. Langenscheidt.

This thorough and compendious book constitutes one of the eleven volumes of the *Enzyklopädie der modernen Kriminalistik*. The scope of the work may be better appreciated when the whole scheme of which it forms a part is understood. The other ten volumes of the encyclopedia are devoted to the Psychology of the Criminal (Vol. 1); the Criminal Police (Vol. 2); the Sexual History of Mankind (Vols. 4, 5, 6); Torture (Vol. 7); the Sexual Criminal (Vol. 8); Medicine and Criminal Law (Vol. 9); and Miscarriage of Justice and Recidivism (Vol. 10). It is evident that the plan of the whole work contemplates an authoritative résumé of the present status of our knowledge of this field. Psychology, Anthropology, Medicine, and Law are canvassed for their contributions to the problems of the nature and treatment of the criminal. We are here concerned only with the work of Doctor Birnbaum. The author's long experience as prison physician in a great city has afforded him admirable opportunities for observing the peculiar types of mental pathology to which he chiefly devotes his book. As the sub-title indicates, it is the borderland cases which receive especial attention.

After a discussion of fundamental concepts in a short section entitled General Orientation, the author takes up a description of the psychopathic types under the heading *Psychopathie und Verbrechen*. This section of nearly 350 pages constitutes the chief content of the book. Two other divisions follow: *Psychopathie und Strafwesen*, to which 122 pages are devoted, and *Die Strafrechtliche Behandlung und Versorgung der Kriminellen Psychopathen*, which end the book. In the General Orientation Doctor Birnbaum attempts to define the psychopathic borderland states. He points out that all sorts of disorders, organic as well as functional, permanent and transitory, acquired and inherited psychotic conditions, have been grouped in this category. Again, by other writers, the term has been used to designate merely the states which lie between the normal and the abnormal without more exact characterization. Such a use of terms is too vague to be of service. Birnbaum defines the psychopathic *Grenzzustände* as the pathological conditions of a less grave sort which rest upon an abnormal endowment, the constitutional

psychopathies (p. 10). These individuals have been variously designated "degenerates," "psychopaths," and the "*psychisch Minderwertigen*." At this point the author protests against the appropriation to pedagogy, law, psychology, or history of the psychopathic criminal on the ground that this individual belongs properly and peculiarly to psychiatry. Birnbaum states emphatically that, while related sciences may furnish helpful and suggestive points of view in the consideration of the psychopathic criminal, "whoever wishes to know psychopathic criminality must know psychopathic men; who knows only normal criminals may easily judge falsely of the psychopathic" (p. 11). The author's conception is made somewhat more definite in a discussion of the psychopathic borderland states and degeneration. By degeneration is meant "those unfavorable deviations from the normal type which rest essentially upon abnormal endowment" (*Veranlagung*). Abnormal endowment depends chiefly upon pathological traits of the germ plasm, and these pathological traits of the germ plasm show themselves to be inheritable. One may say, therefore, with approximate correctness, "the degenerate forms are those unfavorable pathological deviations from the normal type which are inheritable or which are inherited" (p. 12). In addition to the inherited degeneracy there is also an acquired degeneracy. Degeneracy, therefore, is twofold in its origin:

1. Acquired germ plasm injury (*Keimschädigung*).
2. Inherited "taint" (*Belastung*).

Unfortunately the author passes over the question of the inheritance of the primordium of degeneracy with the remark that it must be taken for granted. "*Sie muss einfach als Tatsache hingenommen werden, so gut wie die Erblichkeit normaler Anlagen auch. Ihrem Wesen nach ist sie ziemlich ebenso unbekannt wie diese*" (p. 12). With the acquired degeneration of the germ plasm the case is not much better. It is true that there are protoplasmic poisons (*Keimgifte*) such as lead, alcohol, and mercury. The toxins of disease, as, notably, syphilis and tuberculosis, are recognized as potent agents for harm. So, too, are the chronic diseases of metabolism, blood diseases, and tumors. Finally, all pathological processes which act during the intra-uterine life of the foetus, such as mechanical injuries and intoxications, may produce deviation in the direction of defect. These degenerative phenomena may express themselves as morphological anomalies

—the so-called stigmata of degeneration—or as functional deviations, such as defective sensation, abnormal motility, and defective mental capacities of a more general sort. Since the nervous system is the most highly organized structure of the body, it is also the most easily deranged. In the borderland states the derangement may take the form of a mere disposition to mental and nervous disease. Or it may assume the form of diminished resistance to anti-social tendencies. The terminology follows from the author's fundamental conceptions. Everything which can be traced to degeneration of the germ plasm is termed "degenerative." Therefore one may speak of "degenerative endowments," "degenerative traits of character," and "degenerative pathological states." Degenerative peculiarities are given in the primordium (*Anlage*). They are, therefore, of a constitutional nature. The individuals who exhibit mental and bodily signs of degeneracy may be called "degenerates" without the opprobrium which attaches to the term in the popular sense. If only mental deviations are present, the term "psychopath" may be used. The term "Minderwertigkeit" is condemned, although the author permits himself to use it from time to time, because it implies a judgment of value.

The criminal types, the description of which constitutes, perhaps, the most valuable part of the book, are distinguished and characterized mainly on the basis of psychological traits. In this respect Dr. Birnbaum is following the best teaching of contemporary psychiatry. It is interesting to note that the central point of the author's psychology of the criminal is occupied by the feelings. This central position of the affective life, related so intimately as it is to the whole of the volitional and social reactions on the one hand and judgments of value and habits on the other, offers for the author's purpose an adequate basis for the presentation of the varied forms of psychopathic personalities. Nearly twenty different types of psychopathic behavior are described. These types may be mentioned, although it will be possible to discuss only one or two: Pathological moral defect (moral insanity and the born criminal); General bluntness of feeling; Pathological defect of inhibition (*Haltlosigkeit*); Pathological exaggerated emotivity; Pathological impulsiveness; Pathological manias; Degenerate compulsions; Sexual psychopathies; Pathological moods; Pathological egotism; Pathological imagination (degenerative dreamers, phantasts, swindlers);

Pathological liars; Pathological suggestibility and auto-suggestibility; Hysterical characters; Pathological grumbling; Degenerative feeble-mindedness; Chronic psychotic states of degeneratives; Complications with other disturbances (traumatic, alcoholic).

In order to give an example of the author's mode of treatment, we may consider his discussion of the degenerate feeble-mindedness. By this term Doctor Birnbaum means a generalized mental defect rather than a pathological lack of some particular intellectual capacity such as speech or number sense. One may take exception to the opinion expressed by the author that this defect in the power of making inferences is frequently the consequence of pathological emotivity. It is very difficult to understand how a modification in the emotional or affective reactions can produce the universal intellectual defect which one sees in typical cases of feeble-mindedness. To be sure, interest and attention are dependent upon feeling, and progress in school work undoubtedly depends upon normal affective reactions and capacities. But in marked degrees of feeble-mindedness the retardation of associative processes can be demonstrated by tests and situations independent of all systematic learning. Even in the fundamental, unlearned, social responses the lack of intellect is apparent. The reviewer doubts the existence of an intellectual defect which is dependent primarily upon perverted affective reactions. The author states emphatically, "A congenital (therefore primary) mental defect does not belong to the character of psychopathic, criminal natures. Criminal psychopaths without intellectual defect are therefore not only thinkable—the previous descriptions show it—but they do actually occur" (p. 278). This statement should be seriously considered by those American investigators who attribute to mental deficiency the chief rôle in the causation of juvenile delinquency. But while a primary mental defect is rare in psychopathic criminals, Birnbaum concedes the importance of various degrees of intellectual weakness in the psychopaths with anti-social tendencies. He traces both the intellectual deficiency and the criminal tendencies to a common source—a degenerate primordium. In the opinion of the reviewer Doctor Birnbaum attributes too much importance to the inherited factor. He has, of course, distinguished authority on his side. Mott and Tredgold in England and Goddard and Davenport in America, to name no others, have declared unequivocally in favor of a neuropathic inheritance. It is entirely possible, how-

ever, and indeed, the progress of medical research makes it likely that the *degenerative* "Anlage" of Birnbaum and the *neuropathic* "taint" of the others is the consequence of definite toxic agents acting either upon the germ cells or upon the developing embryo.

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OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXTERNAL WORLD; AS A FIELD FOR SCIENTIFIC METHOD IN PHILOSOPHY. Bertrand Russell, M.A., F.R.S. London and Chicago: Open Court Publishing Co., 1914. Pp. x, 245.

This book contains the Lowell Lectures delivered by Mr. Russell at Boston in the spring of 1914. In some respects it seems to me to be the most important contribution that has been made to philosophy for a long time past. Much of it is, of course, familiar enough to persons acquainted with the modern work in mathematical logic of which Messrs. Russell and Whitehead's *Principia Mathematica* is the greatest example; but unfortunately the number of such persons outside Cambridge is not large, and it is well that modern views about logic, number, continuity, etc., should have found a popular exponent who is at once an acknowledged master and the possessor of a singularly lucid and pleasant style. But the part that is most strikingly new and original is Mr. Russell's application of modern logical apparatus to the problems of the reality of the external world. He has altered his views on this question in a certain measure since he wrote his "Problems of Philosophy," and he tells us that the suggestion of the new view came from Dr. Whitehead. Anyone who has read Dr. Whitehead's most important paper on "Mathematical Concepts of a Material World" in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* will be able to detect the germs of Mr. Russell's present method. This is the part of the book which, whether it ultimately prove tenable or not, seems to me to be the most hopeful step that has been made in philosophy since Leibnitz thought of his Universal Characteristic.

The book opens with two interesting chapters. The first considers current tendencies in philosophy; the second describes in general terms the logic that has been built up by Frege, Peano, and Mr. Russell himself, and shows how it is relevant to philosophy. The two tendencies which Mr. Russell describes and